

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
6 January 2005 (06.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/000238 A2**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61K**  
(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/019441  
(22) International Filing Date: 16 June 2004 (16.06.2004)  
(25) Filing Language: English  
(26) Publication Language: English  
(30) Priority Data:  
60/480,540 20 June 2003 (20.06.2003) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MERCK & CO., INC.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BOICE, Judith, A.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). **ROHRER, Susan** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(74) Common Representative: **MERCK & CO., INC.**; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

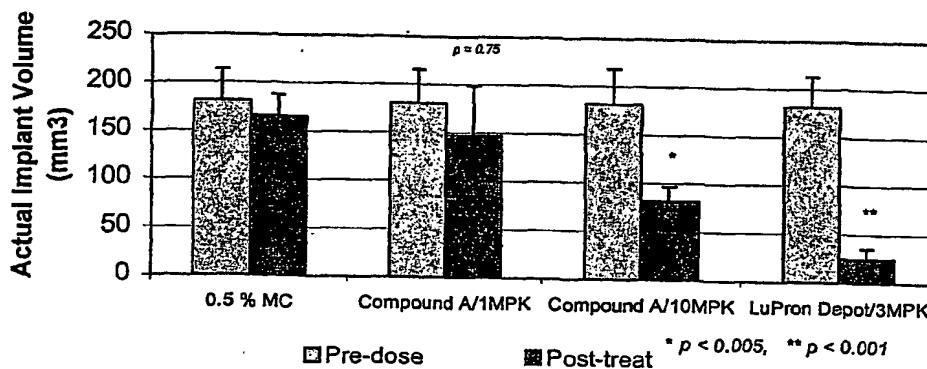
**Published:**

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: USE OF SELECTIVE CYCLOOXYGENASE-2 INHIBITORS FOR THE TREATMENT OF ENDOMETRIOSIS

**Mean implant Volume Comparison**



(57) Abstract: The instant invention is directed to the use of cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors to treat or prevent endometriosis; the use of cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors to prevent, retard and/or reverse the development of endometriotic lesions in patients at risk for the development of such lesions; the use of cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors to reduce the number and/or severity of endometriotic lesions in patients at risk for the development of such lesion; and the treatment of pain in such patients. Combination therapies are also encompassed.

WO 2005/000238 A2

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
6 January 2005 (06.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/000238 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61K 31/53**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/019441

(22) International Filing Date: 16 June 2004 (16.06.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/480,540 20 June 2003 (20.06.2003) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MERCK & CO., INC.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BOICE, Judith, A.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). **ROHRER, Susan** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(74) Common Representative: **MERCK & CO., INC.**; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
24 March 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: USE OF SELECTIVE CYCLOOXYGENASE-2 INHIBITORS FOR THE TREATMENT OF ENDOMETRIOSIS

(57) Abstract: The instant invention is directed to the use of cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors to treat or prevent endometriosis; the use of cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors to prevent, retard and/or reverse the development of endometriotic lesions in patients at risk for the development of such lesions; the use of cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors to reduce the number and/or severity of endometriotic lesions in patients at risk for the development of such lesion; and the treatment of pain in such patients. Combination therapies are also encompassed.

WO 2005/000238 A3